

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please revise the claims, as follows:**

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1. (Currently Amended) A computer method comprising the steps of:
  - i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;
  - ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;  
and
  - iii) employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution.
2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
~~a step of updating the department store space-requirements database.~~
3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein said comprising a step of  
~~updating the department store space-requirements database so that it includes comprises~~  
including the results of employing a data mining technique.
4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:

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B/ updating the department store space-availability database.

5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein said comprising a step of updating the department store space-availability database so that it includes comprises including the effects of employing a data mining technique on the department store space-requirements database.

6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of: refining a an employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-requirements database.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 4, further comprising: a step of refining a an employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-availability database.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising: a step of employing neural networks as the data mining technique.

9. (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method steps for providing

an interactive department store space management database, the method comprising the steps

of:

- i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;
- ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;

and

- iii) employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution.

10. (Currently amended) A computer comprising:

- i) means for inputting a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;
- ii) means for inputting a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;
- iii) means for employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases;

and

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iv) means for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution.

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11. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said neural networks classify features of said department store space-requirements and features of said department store space-availability.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said correlating a department store space-requirements problem with a department store space-availability solution comprises determining whether a match exists between a classification of features of said department store space-requirement determined to be a problem and a classification of features of said department store space-availability.

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